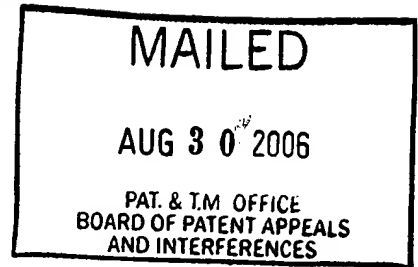


UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCE

Ex parte THOMAS KOTLARSKI and PETER DE BLOCK

Application 09/674,447



ORDER RETURNING UNDOCKETED APPEAL TO EXAMINER

This application was electronically received at the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences (BPAI) on August 22, 2006. A review of the application has revealed that the application is not ready for docketing as an appeal. Accordingly, the application is herewith being returned to the examiner. The matter requiring attention prior to docketing is identified below.

A review of the file indicates that on February 21, 2006, appellants filed an Appeal Brief under the rules set forth in 37 CFR § 41.37(c). However, the Appeal Brief filed on February 21, 2005, does not fully comply with the new rules under 37 CFR § 41.37(c).

37 CFR § 41.37(c) states in part:

(c)(1) The brief shall contain the following items under appropriate headings and in the order indicated in paragraphs (c)(1)(I) through (c)(1)(x) of this section, except that a brief filed by an appellant who is not represented by a registered practitioner need only substantially comply with paragraphs (c)(1)(I) through (c)(1)(iv) and (c)(1)(vii) through (c)(1)(x) of this section:

(iv) ***Status of amendments.*** A statement of the status of any amendment filed subsequent to final rejection.

(ix) ***Evidence appendix.*** An appendix containing copies of any evidence submitted pursuant to §§ 1.130, 1.131, 1.132 of this title or of any other evidence entered by the examiner and relied upon by appellant in the appeal, along with a statement setting forth where in the record that evidence was entered in the record by the examiner. Reference to unentered evidence is not permitted in the brief. See § 41.33 for treatment of evidence submitted after appeal. This appendix may also include copies of the evidence relied upon by the examiner as to grounds of rejection to be reviewed on appeal.

(x) ***Related proceedings appendix.*** An appendix containing copies of decisions rendered by a court or the Board in any proceeding identified pursuant to paragraph (c)(1)(ii) of this section.

An in-depth review of the Appeal Brief indicates that the following sections are missing from the Appeal Brief filed April 19, 2005:

- 1) “Status of Amendments,” as set forth in 37 CFR § 41.37(c)(1)(iv);
- 2) “Evidence Appendix,” as set forth in 37 CFR § 41.37(c)(1)(ix); and
- 3) “Related Proceedings Appendix,” as set forth in 37 CFR § 41.37(c)(1)(x).

It is required that a supplemental Appeal Brief be submitted that is in compliance with 37 CFR § 41.37(c). For more information on the Board's new rules, please see the web page entitled "More Information on the Rules of Practice Before the BPAI," Final Rule at:

<http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/dcom/bpai/fr2004/moreinfo.html>.

Accordingly, it is ORDERED that the application is return to the Examiner:

- 1) hold the Appeal Brief filed on February 21, 2006, defective;
- 2) notify appellants to file a supplemental Appeal Brief in compliance with 37 CFR § 41.37 or for the examiner to present a statement regarding the position taken on the missing appendices;
- 3) for such further action as may be appropriate.

BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCE



DALE M. SHAW
Deputy Chief Appeals Administrator
(571)272-9797

DMS/pgc

cc: Striker Striker & Stenby
103 East Neck Road
Huntington, NY 11743